

THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1,
Number 13

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1907.

Five Cents a copy
\$1 for the session

LEGISLATURE LOADED WITH IMPORTANT BILLS

AMONG THEM ARE FRANCHISE TAX, CHILD LABOR, UNIFORM SYSTEM OF TEXT BOOKS, TO BUILD ANNEX TO CAPITOL, ASSISTANT FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND SEVERAL FOR RAILWAY REGULATION.

Two of the nine weeks of the session of 1907 are past, leaving no deep Legislative impression, save the adoption of the resolution to investigate the records of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, and the appointment of a committee.

The hot haste for this investigation cooled somewhat after receipt of the message from the Governor, asking for such investigation, and in debating over the terms of the resolution authorizing the investigation.

The resolution having been adopted finally and the committee named, the organization will now occur and work will probably begin at once.

This, then, is really the extent of the Legislative work accomplished, beyond the appointment of committees for several junkets arranged, and passage of a number of "purely local" bills.

Bills, of course, have flowed freely into both branches of the Legislature, and of many of them the most that can be said is that they should have never been written.

Nearly two hundred bills have been introduced in each House, but few have been reported for consideration, and it is noticeable that the bills of general importance are evidently receiving thorough consideration in committee, if holding them there means anything.

"Purely local" bills have been many, as have, too, many bills of minor importance, relating to County Commissioners and School Boards, game, fish, concealed weapons, firearms, amendments to the General Statutes, pensions, relief bills for various purposes, including census enumerators and like matters.

First in importance of the bills of general legislation, especially in view of the struggle which is expected will come in the effort to secure enactment, is providing a State system of uniform text books. Three bills, two for State and one for county uniformity, are now in each House. State life insurance will also furnish material for a fight.

A bill to prohibit child labor is in both House and Senate, as is also a bill providing for a Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Two bills for good roads have been introduced, differing in their provisions. Mr. MacWilliams' bill provides for funds for the purpose by use of the money received from the hire of State convicts, and after the expiration of the present lease to use one-half of them on the roadmaking. The principal provision of this measure is the building of three grand highways through the State.

The bill of Senator Adams relates to roadmaking by the creation of tax road districts to be built from funds arising from State prisoners and the use or hire of county prisoners.

A bill relating to taxation of franchises, two and one-half cent a mile passenger fare, separate accommodations for races in waiting rooms, at ticket windows, on street cars, on trains, authorizing the Railroad Commission to employ a competent engineer to inspect physical property of railways is the railroad legislation that has been introduced.

One bill relating to express companies, two concerning telegraph companies, are other offerings to regulate corporations.

Only one resolution, providing for amendment to the Constitution, has been entered. This is the suffrage resolution of Senator Beard.

Three bills for the aid of public schools have been introduced, while fish has had nine, and game eight.

Bills for compulsory education, prohibiting lobbying, regulating the primary law, are other bills which will receive much consideration.

Eight bills relative to pensions have been referred to committees, while bills concerning vagrancy, militia and prohibition of cigarettes will be matters for debate.

Three bills to regulate the liquor traffic have been introduced, one that prohibits the shipment of liquor into dry counties. Bucket shops will be the subject of discussion, as there are two bills seeking their abolition.

Two bills, over which there is prospect of strife, are those to give the Railroad Commission special counsel; the other an assistant for the Attorney General.

The crowded condition of the Capitol has caused the introduction of a bill providing for a three-story annex

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BY THE WAY

Perhaps it has not been remarked outside of the Senate Chamber, but it is a fact of more or less interest that the Judiciary Committee of that body numbers sixteen members, which, until Senator Newlin's vacant seat is filled, is a majority of the Senate. Last session the rule provided for eleven members, but this session it was changed to sixteen, so now if the committee recommends that a bill "do pass" it has the power to carry out its recommendation.

County Superintendents of Florida meet in convention



"The block is mightier than the lever," thought Little Peter, as he got down on his knees, and laughed to himself at the waste of muscle on the other side of the log.

here next Tuesday, and many teachers of the State are also expected to be present.

Besides other things to talk about, the subject of State uniformity of textbooks will probably be turned inside out, and with that there will be time for little chats on politics.

Congressman Clark will address the convention and furnish the eloquence for the occasion from his inexhaustible supply.

This week will see more active work, probably in both branches of the Legislature, the Senators for each showing a quantity of material to go through the mill.

Among the measures in the Senate now on second reading is the bill to prohibit child labor, and a determined effort will be made to secure its passage. It received a favorable committee report.

Labor leaders of the State, who are here to work for the enactment of this law, are Max Moritz of Tampa, president of the State Federation of Labor, and M. J. Arpiett, of Jacksonville, chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Federation.

Senator Beard's resolution for an amendment to the Constitution, limiting the right of suffrage in this State to white persons, is a special order in the Senate at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, when debate will occur.

As the Senator has said, "it involves a matter of vast magnitude," and thorough discussion should be held. It is a matter of much interest, as no State has before attempted to override the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments of the Constitution in this manner, and it may be possible for Florida to set a pace for her sister States.

Representatives of school book houses were remarkable by their absence Saturday, and the haunts that had known them during the week were deserted, in like manner as the rest of the lobbying bunch that had flown away from its stamping ground for a day or two.

But they will be back; they want to appear before EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES SOMETIME.

The franchise tax bill will probably be reported from committee tomorrow, and what the recommendation will be is yet to be learned, but no matter about that, as it is hinted that it will be strengthened in a manner that will leave no reason for not supporting it, IF THE PEOPLE are to be served.



Dr. (Major) Healey, specialist in reducing obesity (of pocketbooks), complains that practice in his line is slow. In order to get his hand in he offered to operate on a county division case for a nominal fee, but his services were declined—not with thanks.

LAKE CITY WANTS A "TECH" SCHOOL

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS THERE READY FOR USE, AND LEGISLATURE WILL BE ASKED TO AID—PLAN WILL COLLIDE WITH BUCKMAN AND HIS LAW, BUT PROJECT HAS FRIENDS.

That the buildings of the former University of Florida at Lake City will be permitted to remain unused is not the intention of citizens of that place, if they can find a way to establish a school in them.

Having been built for such purposes, and much money has been spent therefor, the project possesses worthy features, which will probably soon receive Legislative attention.

Already two delegations have visited the capital in order to lay plans for the movement, which is understood to be the establishment of a technological school.

Senator Cone stated, in his address to the Senate Friday, concerning the resolution to appoint a committee to inspect the buildings, that the Legislature should not allow these buildings to decay through idleness, and indications



Senator Cone, who will attempt to have a school established at Lake City.

are that pressure will be brought against that body to appropriate sufficient money that a useful educational purpose will be served.

The obstacle to be overcome will be Senator Buckman, the law that is best known by his name, and which abolished a number of the smaller colleges of the State, and the following which he may have.

The vote in his favor Friday gave him two majority, but whether that will be increased or lessened at the next trial of strength will depend somewhat on the merits of the proposed school and the energy of the promoters.

Senator Buckman, who will resist the attempt to break into the Buckman Law.

A short time before the University was moved from Lake City new buildings had been erected, others repaired, and beside these is the building given by H. M. Flagler, that is only about five years old and cost \$20,000.

Doubtless this will be the last fight in which the Lake City people will appear before the Legislature seeking aid for a college or school that will occupy these buildings, and it is to be expected that they will exert every bit of strength that they can command.

NEWS FORECAST FOR COMING WEEK.

Washington, D. C., April 13.—The sessions of the National Peace Congress in New York will attract attention during the first three days of the coming week. A large number of men and women of wide reputation will take part in the meeting, which is expected to be the most notable ever held in this country in the interest of international peace and arbitration.

The National Assembly of Panama will meet in extraordinary session.

A consistory is to be held in Rome Monday, at which, it is stated, six new Cardinals will be created. It is not expected that any Americans will be among those to receive the red hat.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is to hold another hearing at Portland, Ore., Monday on the so-called Spokane rate cases.

The Colonial conference, which has for its object the strengthening of the bonds between the various parts of the British Empire, will begin its sessions in London Monday.

The annual meeting of the United States Steel Corporation will be held Monday in Hoboken.

PORTO RICO TO WELCOME TAFT.

San Juan, P. R., April 13.—Great preparations are being made for the reception and entertainment of Secretary Taft, who is expected to arrive tomorrow. The program includes an informal dinner, a visit to points of historic interest and an automobile trip from San Juan to Ponce and return over the same roads taken by President Roosevelt.